take up afforestation of wastelands, community lands, and in reserve forest areas under the Clean and Green programme.

Environmental changes due to cyclone in Orissa

1723. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some disturbing changes have been predicted by the wildlife experts and Environmentalists for Orissa, due to super cyclone in that State;

(b) if so, what are the changes predicted by them; and

(c) the details of measures adopted to save human beings for the changes due to ecological imbalances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Some reports predicting that the recent super cyclone in Orissa may contribute to global warming and climate change adversely have appeared in the media. These reports also mention that some of the endangered species may have also been adversely effected by the super cyclone.

(c) Measures contemplated to ameliorate the predicted changes are:

(i) re-establishment of coastal shelter belt plantation over 18000 hectare;

(ii) restoration and rehabilitation of mangrove ecosystem over 18000 hectare;

(iii) raising avenue plantation over 1500 km along roads;

(iv) re-stocking of 25000 hectare of forest blocks.

Protection of Forests and wildlife

1724. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what measures have been taken by Government to save the forests and the wild animals from destruction;

(b) whether Government have any check on the cutting of forest trees in Adivasi districts of Maharashtra, which have put the forest

animals in difficulty and thus forced them to run to the adjoining parts of the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to safeguard the forest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) Major steps taken by the Government to save the forests and the wild animals from destruction are as under:

(i) Forest Protection is governed by the Indian Forest act, 1927.

(ii) Hunting of wild animals included in the Schedule I to IV of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 has been banned.

(iii) Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been enacted to regulate diversion of forest land for non-forestry purpose.

(iv) International trade in Endangered Species of animals and articles made thereof is regulated under the provisions of the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

(v) A network of 447 wildlife sanctuaries and 84 national parks covering about 1,50,000 sq. km has been set up in the country for conservation of wild flora and fauna.

(vi) Special measures for protection and coservation of Tigers and Elephants and their habitat are being implemented.

(vii) Local communities are being involved in the protection and development of degarded forests under Joint Forest Management Programme.

(viii) Modern Forest Fire Control methods scheme is being implemented to prevent and control the forest fires.

(ix) Afforestation programmes are being undertaken to increase the three cover.

The subject of protection and management of forests and wildlife under the provisions of Indian Forest Act, 1972 and Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 comes under

the purview of state governments. There is no report with Government of India on the cutting of forest trees in adivasi districts of Maharashtra which have put the forest animals in difficulty and thus forced them to run to the adjoining parts of the country. As per State of Forest Report, 1997 published by Forest Survey of India, as increase of 1399 sq. km of forest cover has been reported in the tribal districts of Maharashtra as compared to 1995 assessment.

Afforestation in Reserve and Non-Reserve Forest Areas

1725. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to associate NGO, Institutions, and Companies in afforestation activities to effectively implement afforestation programmes in reserve and non-reserve forest areas;

(b) if so, the details of specific programmes and modalities finalised in the regard;

(c) the NGOs or companies presently operating in Assam in forest, wildlife conservation, environment protection and eco-development, area-wise;

(d) whether Government propose to draw a special afforestation programme for NER; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) National Forest Policy, 1998 envisages for creating a massive people's movement with involvement of women in increasing substantially the forest/tree cover in the country through afforestation and social forestry programmes, especially on all denuded, degraded and unproductive lands in reserve and non-reserve forest areas as well as in non-forest areas. People's participation in afforestation programmes is through village institutions and NGOs. Companies, jointly with NGOs and State Forest Departments, also participate in afforestation activities on degraded forest lands with their own resources and without having any claim on forest land or forest produce.